

**EMSSAB CHAIRS**  
**Bi-Monthly Conference Call**  
**Thursday, May 11, 2006**  
**3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Participants**

**Chairs/Representatives:**

Fernald	Jim Bierer
Hanford	Todd Martin, Shelly Cimon, Susan Leckband, Eric Olds, Lynn Lefkoff
Idaho	Shannon Brennan, Lisa Aldrich, William Flanery
Nevada	Carla Sanda
NNM	J. D. Campbell, Menice Santistevan
Oak Ridge	Norm Mulvenon, Pete Osborne
Paducah	Jeannie Brandstetter
Rocky Flats	Gerald DePoorter, Ken Korkia
Savannah River	Gerri Flemming

**DOE representatives:**

EM-13	Melissa Nielson, Doug Frost, Patricia Atkinson-Brown
EM-12	Christine Gelles

***OPENING REMARKS***

Melissa Nielson welcomed everyone.

***NEW BUSINESS***

**Update on LLW and MLLW Strategy**

Christine Gelles, Director, Office of Commercial Disposition Options, provided the following information:

- EM is making changes to the Waste Materials Disposition document to satisfy Charlie Anderson's concerns that the documents are not fully coordinated with Defense Programs and an NNSA document dealing with excess nuclear materials management.
- In the future, there will be significant revisions in the way EM addresses excess nuclear materials, such as surplus plutonium, and the way other organizations discuss excess materials that are destined for waste disposition paths. These changes will be accomplished outside of the scope of the current document.
- The revised document will be published in draft form for public review and input. To ensure timely release of the document, changes will be minimal. A notice of

availability will go to the *Federal Register* (in approximately one week) and then back through General Counsel review. After this, the last hurdle is with Congressional and Intergovernmental.

Shelly Cimon asked about the next steps in coordinating with Defense Programs while receiving public comment.

Ms. Gelles responded that EM's documents are not necessarily inconsistent with Defense Programs and NNSA. EM's past approach has been to take responsibility for specific sets of materials. EM is now realizing that it will remain in business even after it completes its currently planned scope and will take on future liabilities from the other programs. EM's current disposition plans are focused on surplus plutonium that it knows it is going to stabilize for purposes of disposal. NNSA is now working on reducing its inventory, and materials that it previously retained will be planned for disposition. EM wants to offer NNSA the same disposition tools that EM uses. However, NNSA's materials are classified, which limits EM's discussion of them. In summary, this is an area for increased cooperation.

Ms. Nielson asked Ms. Gelles to confirm that once EM's disposition document is completed, it will remain a "living document" and will be updated.

Ms. Gelles noted that it will be published as a draft. After EM receives comments and revises it, it will continue to be a living document.

Susan Leckband noted that plutonium disposition is a major issue at Hanford. She asked whether this document discusses implementation of Hanford's call to move the plutonium.

Ms. Gelles responded that this document discusses plutonium disposition on a high level and does not deal with specifics, such as Hanford's situation.

Ms. Cimon asked how the public would provide input on the integration of NNSA and EM materials disposition in the future.

Ms. Gelles noted that the public review processes would not be supplanted. Any plan to consolidate plutonium would be subject to the NEPA process which would include public comment periods. She stresses that the Waste Materials Disposition document is a communication tool, not a policy-making tool.

J. D. Campbell asked if EM was on track for having the integrated and documented tools on TRU waste by the fall.

Ms. Gelles noted that EM's reorganization will result in TRU waste coming under her purview. Based on her current knowledge, the fall date – or the end of the year at the latest – is achievable. The inventory is defined, and complex-wide plans have been developed.

## **Plans for the Fall Chairs' Meeting**

Mr. Campbell asked for ideas on technical subjects for the fall Chairs' meeting in Los Alamos. He suggested groundwater issues as a possible focus. Most of the Boards expressed interest and agreed to further explore this subject on the Steering Committee conference call next week.

Menice Santistevan reminded everyone that the tour is scheduled for September 6, with the meeting on September 7-8.

## **EM Headquarters Reorganization**

Ms. Nielson stated that the reorganization has been approved by the union. There's a chance it will be in place by Monday, May 22; however, May 29 is more likely. The Office of Internal/External Coordination will become the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Accountability and move under Frank Marcinowski, the new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory Compliance.

## ***SITE SUMMARIES***

### **Fernald – Jim Bierer**

- The risk from the K-65 silos has been virtually eliminated. Waste from Silos 1 and 2 will be shipped by the end of May and D&D is continuing. Waste from Silo 3 has been shipped, and D&D should be completed by the end of May.
- A design team from the University of Cincinnati is assisting in plans to convert a warehouse on the site to a multi-use education facility. The facility will house records and artifacts and provide educational opportunities.
- While there will be no Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO) at Fernald, the Board recognizes the need to form some entity. There is an upcoming meeting to discuss the merging of the Fernald Living History Project into a coalition to include community members and former CAB members.

### **Idaho – Bill Flanery**

- The Idaho Board is having its bi-monthly meeting on May 16-17 and will be welcoming several new members.
- The Board will be discussing one recommendation concerning how DOE-Idaho can best communicate with the public.

### **Nevada – Carla Sanda**

- The Nevada Board has just finished its recruitment effort and is recommending 12 new members. The membership package has been sent to DOE-HQ.

- The Board conducted a full-day tour of the Nevada Test Site for the new members.
- On June 3, the Board will conduct its orientation for new members as well as its semi-annual work plan retreat.
- Nevada will host the Spring 2007 Chairs' Meeting. Tentative dates are the weeks of March 19 or March 26, 2007. Chairs were asked to send their preferences to Doug Frost.

### **Northern New Mexico – J. D. Campbell**

- The Northern New Mexico Board is conducting its Groundwater Forum in Los Alamos. Representatives from LANL, DOE, New Mexico Environment Department, EPA, National Academy of Sciences, and citizens groups will participate. There will also be a one-hour public question and answer period.
- The Board's annual retreat will occur May 19 and 20.
- The Board has met with the new contractor at LANL.
- Recent recommendations include the implementation of the draft letter requesting DOE include the Board in the budget process for FY 2008.

### **Oak Ridge – Kerry Trammell**

- The Oak Ridge Board conducted a meeting on May 10 and presented the letters produced at the Chairs' Meeting, which were well accepted.
- Two new students are participating on the Board.
- In February, 24 high school teachers participated in a training session on the Board's Stewardship Education Resource Kit. Many planned to use it in their classrooms. Next week there will be a meeting to obtain feedback and determine if changes are needed to the Resource Kit.
- Oak Ridge's Community Reuse Organization, which is re-developing the K-25 site, now the East Tennessee Technology Park, will be constructing three new buildings. In addition, a Florida company called BRI Energy announced that it has signed a letter of intent to use perhaps all 1.4 million square feet of the long-closed K-31 building for one or two types of ethanol production. The process would produce ethanol from coal and municipal waste, and could employ about 500 people within five years.

### **Paducah – Jeannie Brandstetter**

- The Paducah Board has three new members.
- The next Board meeting is May 18. The letters from the Chairs' Meeting will be discussed.
- The Executive Committee will review the new SSAB charter to determine changes needed to the Oak Ridge Board's by-laws.
- There is still a period of adjustment with the new cleanup contractor coming on board.

### **Rocky Flats – Jerry DePoorter**

- The Rocky Flats Board has been working on its legacy report.
- A site inspection is scheduled next week to take one final look at the cleaned-up site.
- The Rocky Flats Board's last meeting will be on June 22.
- The Chairs' letters have been sent to Board members, who are basically in agreement with the letters.

### **Hanford – Todd Martin**

- The Hanford Board recently concluded its leadership retreat. Items discussed were: improving management processes to ensure they are simple, defensible, efficient, and effective; improving membership and leadership development; and developing priorities for the coming year.
- There will be a groundwater tutorial at the Board's June meeting. The Board will review existing data to take stock of current conditions and determine future actions.
- The Board will be commenting on the CERCA Five-Year Review that has recently been released at Hanford

### **Savannah River – Gerri Flemming**

- The Savannah River Board will meet on May 23.
- The Board has reviewed the letters from the Chairs' Meeting.

## ***OTHER UPDATES***

### **Congressional Update – Doug Frost**

The House Defense Authorization Bill is currently being discussed. The Senate has not acted on its version. The House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee marked up its bill. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee has not yet done its markup.

## ***CLOSING REMARKS***

Ms. Nielson discussed the SSAB membership exception process, reaffirming that the exception process is for exceptional circumstances. DOE-HQ expects one or two boards to take advantage of the exception process, and use it sparingly.

In response to questions and concerns, Ms. Nielson volunteered to discuss this issue with the Boards on a case-by-case basis.

## ***NEXT CONFERENCE CALL***

Ms. Nielson set the date for the next Chairs' conference call for Thursday, July 13 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Ms. Nielson also promised to update Mr. Campbell on Assistant Secretary Rispoli's travel plans to Los Alamos.

Ms. Nielson thanked everyone for participating.